

BUILDING COMMUNITY  
MAINTAINING ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT GROW OUR CITY

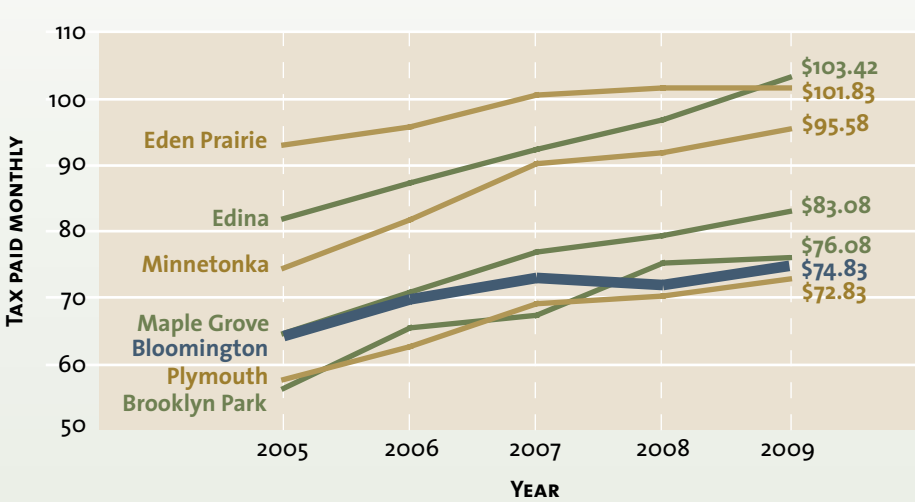
By Mayor Gene Winstead

One of the City’s goals is to protect and reinvest in the community’s long-term key investments – our homes and businesses – by providing services that make Bloomington safe and bring the community together. The services that residents and businesses receive are among the most competitively priced in the Twin Cities metro area. The City continues to look for ways to meet the community’s needs while improving services and keeping costs affordable.

City services are provided to a home independent of its property value. Police and Fire provide the same response and preventative services whether the property holds a small rambler or a three-story walkout. Public Works provides the same level of snow removal, street repair and maintenance to a home valued at \$200,000 on an 80-foot lot, as it does to a home valued at \$500,000 on that same lot. Services such as Parks and Recreation are a function of the people who use them, not the value of the property in which those people live. In a comparison of seven metro suburbs, Bloomington is currently the second lowest in average taxes paid by a single-family property owner. See graph top right.

Ongoing efforts to provide housing alternatives and revitalize commercial areas will continue to be the focus for 2010. Making Bloomington more sustainable by encouraging

AVERAGE SINGLE-FAMILY CITY TAX SHARE COMPARISON



higher density, mixed-use and, where applicable, transit-oriented development will continue to be the long-term goal.

In both expanding and contracting economic times, the City looks to improve the cost effectiveness of its services and does not staff or provide services beyond what it can carry through a normal downturn. The City developed strategies to get through the downturn in the late 1990s and began using these downturn strategies again in 2008 by holding staff positions open, approving a budget for 2010 with a 2.98 percent levy increase and by not increasing wages while holding City utility rates flat. However, during a downturn, demand for certain key services can actually increase.

How do the costs of City services compare to a monthly cable, Internet, cell phone or private utility bill? Police

services, which include preventive patrols, emergency medical response, traffic enforcement and crime investigation cost the owner of a \$228,600 median valued home \$24.46 per month. Public Works services that include snowplowing, street and parks maintenance, engineering and pavement management cost the same homeowner \$18.66 per month.

These key services are not only essential in that they keep Bloomington safe, but they make our City a desirable place to live and work. Maintaining service levels, even during difficult economic times, is a vital part of moving the community forward, making Bloomington a great place to live now and in the future.

UP FOR A CHALLENGE  
BLOOMINGTON JOINS US-169 CORRIDOR COALITION

In an effort to continue to reduce congestion and maximize economic development along the US Highway 169 corridor, the City joined the US-169 Corridor Coalition.

The Coalition members, which include local and regional governments and agencies, joined together to advocate for transportation and transit improvements to the US Highway 169 corridor from the I-94/I-694 area to Mankato.

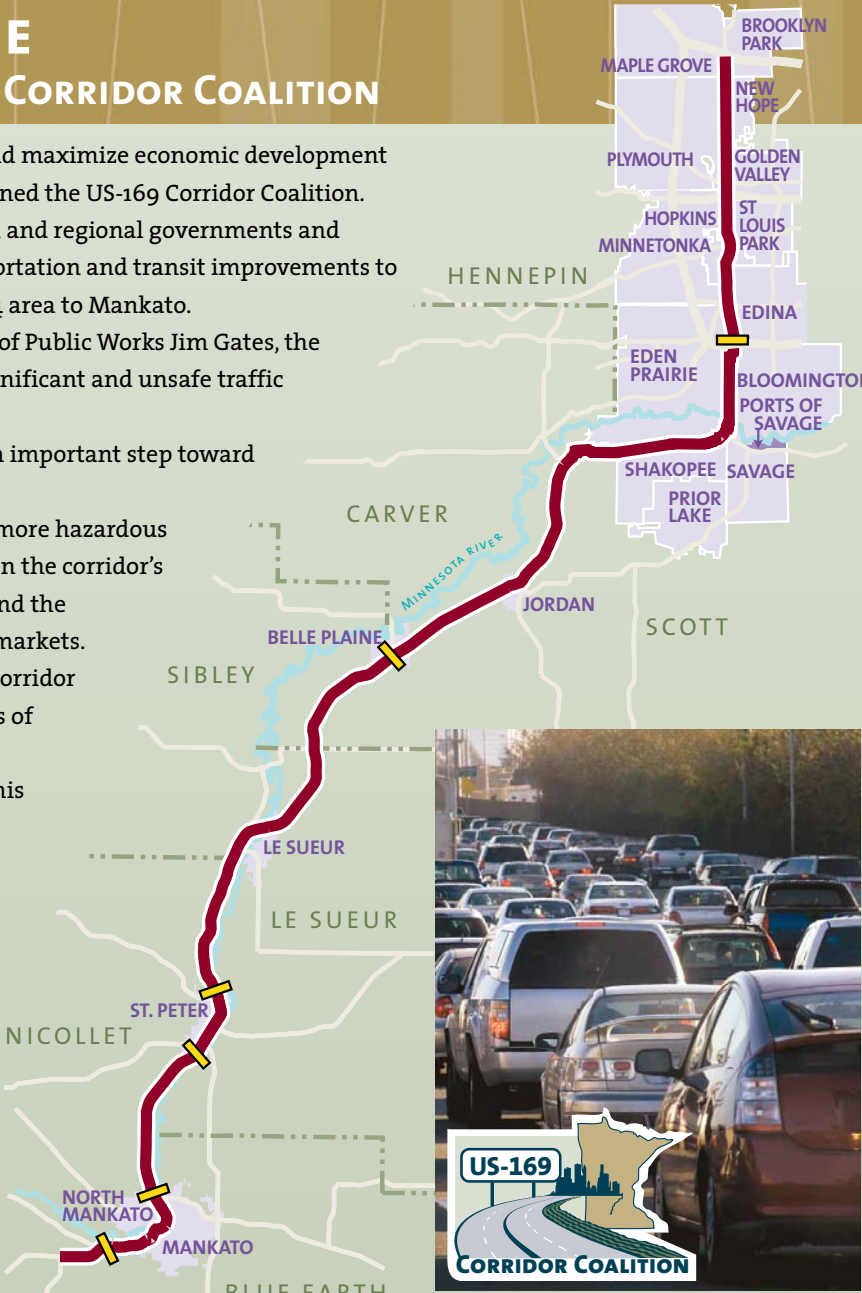
According to Bloomington Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates, the US-169/I-494 interchange is “one of the most significant and unsafe traffic bottlenecks in the metropolitan area.”

The City’s involvement in the Coalition is an important step toward addressing the problems of the interchange.

Increases in traffic have resulted in longer, more hazardous travel times. This, in turn, has a negative effect on the corridor’s ability to connect with other parts of the state and the region, as well as to national and international markets. Maintaining the viability and efficiency of the corridor necessitates a long-term commitment to a series of improvements designed to enhance the flow of traffic, both commuter and commercial, along this increasingly congested highway system.

While the improvement of the interchange is of great regional significance, the project has been in and out of the state’s construction program many times due to the high cost of the improvement and lack of dedicated funding.

For more information, contact Jim Gates at 952-563-8730, e-mail jgates@ci.bloomington.mn.us or visit www.us169corridorcoalition.com.



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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.